World Alliance News Letter

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A CATHOLIC PRIEST LOOKS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

JOSEPH D. MUNIER

ON THE OCCASION of the Tenth Anniversary Session of the United Nations in San Francisco, many appraisals of the UN were expressed from pulpit, platform and paper. Some denounced the UN as a monumental farce, others extolled it as a monumental force for world peace. Unfortunately, a number of religious leaders joined the resurgent isolationist attacks which shout, "Get the U.S. out of the UN, and the UN out of the U.S."

It is difficult to understand how anyone with genuine religious convictions can be either a pious individualist or a righteous isolationist; for such a person, whether he intends it or not, is an international anarchist who has lost faith in the fundamental spiritual doctrines which underlie international organization, namely, the doctrines of the unity of the human race and the brotherhood of man.

The Catholic teaching on international organization in general is unmistakably positive. All the Popes from Leo XIII to the present Pius XII have consistently taught that an international organization is one of the prime requisites for world peace. Pope Leo XIII enthusiastically supported the Hague Conference, from which came the International Court of Arbitration. Pope Benedict XV, in his famous peace proposals of 1917, suggested an international institution for compulsory arbitration, and then, after the Armistice, supported the idea of the League of Nations. The same policy was pursued by his successor, Pope Pius XI. Since his elevation, the present Pope has repeatedly pointed to the necessity of a juridical international institution to guarantee the fulfilment of treaty conditions and to preserve the peace.

TURNING to the United Nations, Pope Pius XII has announced his realistic acceptance of the UN as at least a partial actualization of an international community. As early as 1948, the Holy Father expressed the hope that the UN, after eliminating the weaknesses stemming from its origin, which was of necessity a solidarity in war, would become "the full and faultless expression of international solidarity for peace." (Christmas Message of 1948.) Moreover, the Pope has appointed official observers to UNESCO, has accepted membership of the Holy See in the Advisory Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner's Office for Refugees, and has made contributions to the UN Technical Assistance Program and to the UN Children's Fund.

Will the world achieve unity and peace in and through the UN? In his Christmas Message of 1954, Pius XII states: "The present coexistence in fear has only two possible prospects before it — either it will raise itself to a coexistence in fear of God, and thence to a truly peaceful living together, inspired and protected by the Divine moral order, or else it will shrivel more and more into a frozen paralysis of international life, the grave dangers of which are even now foreseeable."

According to the Pope, coexistence in fear of God is coexistence in truth, and he feels that a bridge of truth can be built between the human beings of the free world who strive to preserve the natural law and the human beings of the communist world who have been forced by their governments to abandon the natural law. The first step must be taken by the statesmen of the free world, and this applies very pointedly to UN Delegates. These statesmen must overcome their excessive timidity in proclaiming the truth, and with greater confidence in themselves, they must give proof of a firmer courage in foiling the maneuvers of the obscure forces which are opposed to truth, to justice, to charity, and to the spirit.

BUT WHILE Catholic teaching makes fear of God and respect for the moral law essential to any organized effort for peace, it also proclaims quite clearly that the world union of nations cannot be built on the foundation of a common religion or in terms of one religious vision. Some eager spokesmen against the UN keep saying that the quest for an effective world organization is utterly hopeless and futile without unity in the Christian Faith. Pius XII rejects this point of view when he reminds us that even God permits the existence of religions other than the one He Himself has established, and thus in a world organization we and our governments have the obligation to practise religious tolerance. (Discourse of December 6, 1953.)

Besides coexistence in truth, Catholic teaching insists that the corporal works of mercy are indispensable to unity and peace in the world community. The relief of tensions caused by hunger, sickness and poverty should be the immediate aim of the spiritual will for peace. Men of all nations can agree at least on one thing, namely, the recognition of human suffering from lack of food, shelter, and medical care.

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—The Reverend Joseph D. Munier, Ph.D., is Professor of Catholic Social Principles at St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, California.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Agencies Seek to Speed Immigration

Most of the 214,000 refugees for whose immigration to the United States the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 provided, have not yet been able to enter — according to recent bulletins from Catholic, Protestant and Jewish agencies. The Act expires December 31, 1956.

The chief current obstacle to their admission is the lack of "assurances" for them. The Refugee Relief Act requires an assurance of a job and of housing to prevent the immigrant's becoming a public charge. Until very recently a specific job, verified by the U.S. Employment Service, was necessary. All that is now required is that an American citizen, on behalf of a church or citizens' group, sign an assurance that the refugee will be employed within a general work category and in a certain locality. Generally, the church or citizens' group assumes any emergency responsibility for the immigrant.

The National Council of Churches' Department of Church World Service, 215 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y., is seeking assurances for Protestant and Eastern Orthodox refugees. For information on Catholic immigration, write War Relief Services, 149 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. The United H.I.A.S. Service, 425 Lafayette Street, New York, N. Y., is handling Jewish immigration.

Interfaith Meeting Gives $4,000 to UNICEF

Adherents of many religions, participating in a Festival of Faith in San Francisco, recently donated $4,107.11 to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Organized under the auspices of the San Francisco Council of Churches, the convocation included representatives of the Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Mohammedan and Bahai faiths. UNICEF is currently working in 91 countries and territories, and this year will render concrete aid to over 32,000,000 children and mothers.

UN Tenth Year Publications

"Issues Before the Tenth General Assembly," the September issue of *International Conciliation,* reviews the history and current status of important questions facing the UN Assembly. Among some 30 topics discussed are Charter review, disarmament, dependent peoples, international trade, technical assistance, human rights and arbitral procedure. Available from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 345 E. 46th Street, New York, N. Y. (160 pp. 25 cents.)

The UN Department of Public Information is publishing a free six-issue *United Nations Tenth Anniversary Newsletter* as an aid to member governments, educational authorities and other organizations. The *Newsletter* contains official declarations, suggestions for UN programs and information on other nations' observance plans. For information, write the Department of Public Information, United Nations, New York.

The United Nations — Ten Years of Achievement by William A. DeWitt discusses the progress made in economic and social welfare through the UN Specialized Agencies. Attention is also paid to disarmament and human rights. A special section refutes some myths about the UN. Order from Public Affairs Press, 22 E. 38th Street, New York, N. Y. 25 cents. 28 pp.

UNESCO Aids Radio School

Using a home-made radio transmitter, a young priest broadcast the first educational programs in Colombia. In 1947, Father José Joaquin Salcedo, new assistant pastor in an Andean parish, set out to improve the lot of the "campesino" — the farmers — of whom only one in three could write. Alcoholism was common. Gradually collecting enough money, he bought a 250 watt transmitter and enough receivers for 15 villages and in 1949 began to broadcast.

With offices now occupying most of the seventh floor of Bogota's largest office building, he sells at cost price a receiving set and batteries to each radio school, and provides free chalk, erasers and textbooks. Morning lessons include reading, writing, hygiene, history, religious instruction or civics. In the evening, there are variety shows, music and news. An early educational result was the introduction of contour planting.

UNESCO has sent two experts to help Father Salcedo by producing reading materials and posters to cover six months of daily 25-minute lessons — the time needed to learn to read and write. Father Salcedo had requested UNESCO technical assistance to make his teaching methods more scientific.

At the United Nations

- The sixteenth session of the UN Trusteeship Council reviewed the progress made towards eventual self-government in Somaliland, Africa (Italian administration); Nauru and New Guinea in the Pacific (Australian supervision); Western Somoa (New Zealand trust territory) and the Pacific Islands trust of the United States.
- Paraguay became the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's 73rd member state on June 20. All North and South American states are now UNESCO members.
- The UNESCO-sponsored Copyright Convention, signed by 40 states and ratified by 12, including the U.S., came into force September 16 after five years of sustained work. The Convention will increase the protection afforded authors, artists, composers, etc., and will help eliminate gaps and injustices in previous multilateral conventions.
- The French Government will underwrite a permanent international theatre festival in Paris to run nine months a year. The proposal was made and unanimously adopted at the UNESCO-sponsored Congress of the International Theatre Institute.

SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITIES

HENRY A. ATKINSON

An International Conference was held from August 19-24 in Diekirch, a small city about 18 miles from the capital of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The meeting was arranged jointly by the World Congress of Faiths and the World Alliance for International Friendship through Religion. About 80 delegates from some nine states and nations were present. The theme of the Conference was "Spiritual Experience and Moral Responsibilities."

Conference sessions were held in the Town Hall of Diekirch. The mayor of the city honored the delegates by a reception and was admirably supported by the Grand Rabbi of Luxembourg, as well as his associates. The opening address was given by the Rev. Reginald Sorensen, a distinguished member of the British Parliament. His emphasis on "Our Moral Values" set a high standard and stimulated a spirited and helpful discussion. Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, President of The Church Peace Union and chief of the American delegation, stressed the necessity of recognizing that all our problems, whether international or personal, must be faced realistically and from the perspective of our religious faith and our basic moral principles.

The Muslim point of view was expressed by Mr. Hadjm-Oud-Diene Bammate, who is a leader of his group in Paris. The Hindu attitude was presented by Pandit Rishiram. Rabbi Dr. Charles Lehrmann in the concluding address gave the approach of Judaism.

The Rev. Arthur Peacock, Honorary Secretary of the World Congress of Faiths, organized the conference program in cooperation with the World Alliance.

The members of the World Alliance were well represented by Dr. Cesare Gay of Italy, President of the European Branch of the World Alliance, his daughter, and Professor Andre Toledano, who has served faithfully for many years as the European Secretary of the Alliance. Professor Toledano travels widely, meets many groups, and arranges conferences for the work being done through the World Alliance and the Congress of Faiths.

One of the most dynamic persons in our common work is Lady Ravensdale, one of the British delegates. After the Conference adjourned, she left for an extended trip in India, where she hopes to visit Madras and meet the Indian World Alliance Secretary, Mr. A. A. Paul, who for more than a decade has been the chief officer in India of the World Alliance and The Church Peace Union. He was a friend of Gandhi and maintains a close relationship with Prime Minister Nehru. Mr. Paul and his committee have agreed to consider arranging a nation-wide religious congress on the subject of "India and Spiritual Resources." This congress is proposed for December, 1956. However, it will take more than one year to prepare such a conference in India, and the most hopeful prospect would be to set its date not earlier than three years in the future, that is, in 1958.

—Dr. Atkinson, General Secretary of The Church Peace Union and World Alliance, helped to arrange and attended the conference at Diekirch.

The Church Peace Union and World Alliance have for years worked together almost as a unit, and as long as we can find means for closer communication and deeper understanding with a still wider world outside the United States, England, the Continent, and the Middle East, the more we can help to generate a larger measure of genuine world community.

Toward this end we need not only wider participation in international conferences but also a practical program for the local community level. New evaluations of people — their homes, their governments, their ways of life — must constantly widen our horizons with the passing years. The United Nations is our best present hope for an assured future. It needs our vigorous support, and plans for future conferences should be worked out in such a way as to make our purposes undergird the program of the United Nations.

A Priest Looks At the United Nations

(Continued from page 1)

It might be well for some religious leaders to wake up to the fact that communism is not the only obstruction between mankind and a secure peace. If all the communists of every race were suddenly converted or eliminated, the world revolution for liberation from misery would not stop. The hungry, sick and desperate millions of the world would still disturb our peace and with every right.

It is hoped that a Charter Review Conference in the near future will eliminate the moral and structural defects of the UN. In the meantime men of goodwill must continue to pray for this assembly of nations. Many of us have been praying for peace for a long time. Could it be that we have been praying with shallow glibness, because our prayer has had so little to do with our inner lives, with our own little wars at home, at work and in our neighborhood? Our prayer for peace must be a creative instrument, a genuine revolution, that spiritual revolution that seeks God's will in our personal decisions, that questions every selfish motive, that searches the soul for our willingness to make sacrifices for others. May our prayers be powerful and revolutionary as we beg God to show the way to a lasting and secure peace.

THE WORLD BROTHERHOOD ASSEMBLY AT BRUSSELS

WILLARD JOHNSON

"Brotherhood for Peace and Freedom" was the theme of the second five-year assembly of World Brotherhood held at Brussels, July 11-15, 1955. 507 delegates from 27 nations registered, 225 coming from the U.S., 35 from Asia and Africa and the others from Europe and the Mediterranean region.

Among the major addresses given at plenary sessions were those of Paul-Henri Spaak, Belgian Foreign Minister; Luther H. Evans, Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Gustavo Martinez-Cabanas, Deputy Director General of the UN Technical Assistance Administration; and Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, Pakistan Judge of the International Court at the Hague. Dr. Arthur H. Compton, Nobel Prize physicist, Chairman of World Brotherhood, presided at all sessions.

COMMISSIONS DEVELOP PRACTICAL PROGRAMS

Seven commissions of experts discussed ways to develop practical programs of education for brotherhood. The Commission on Education issued 25 suggestions, requests and recommendations addressed to UNESCO, to educators and to chapters of World Brotherhood, largely dealing with the improvement of history textbooks. A report based on a questionnaire answered by competent educators from 40 nations about their history books and teaching was read before this Commission. It was generally agreed that, although many history books actually foster hatreds and prejudices, the major fault is that history writers fail to contribute to understanding and goodwill. World Brotherhood is pledged to help correct this deficiency.

The Commission on Research recommended a greater emphasis on common human factors among people of various cultures, rather than differences, and asked World Brotherhood to give assistance to the development of the social sciences in countries where they are lacking. It also recommended that World Brotherhood sponsor the International Conference on Human Relations in January 1956 at Nijmegan, Holland.

COMMISSION ON INFORMATION

The Commission on the Media of Information heard a report from Armand Gaspard of the International Press Institute. A newspaper survey indicated, he said, that the daily press seriously failed to deal accurately or adequately with news of other nations. George Barati, Director of the Honolulu Symphony, gave an illuminating report on "Music and Brotherhood." John Huston, film producer, proposed that nations encourage foreign cameramen to come to film their people for foreign audiences and that nations allow these photographers full freedom to show what they see.

—Mr. Johnson is Secretary General of World Brotherhood.

This commission also recommended (1) that World Brotherhood form a consultative group to assist in the international exchange of all kinds of programs and radio and TV artists; (2) that the *spirit* of radio and television leaders be recognized as the most important element in promoting understanding through radio and TV; and (3) that in the field of the cinema an appeal be made to avoid all kinds of stereotypes, to eliminate all films conducive to war and violence, to show all situations with objectivity, avoiding "propaganda," and to give great freedom to film authors and producers. (4) The section on press demanded free travel and access to news by reporters, and asked journalists to report more news with adequate, friendly interpretation from foreign nations.

THE WORK OF OTHER COMMISSIONS

Four other commissions also assembled. The Commission on Women's Organizations generally agreed that women could promote brotherhood more effectively through the home and through their community organizations than they do now. The relation of technology to human values in America, Europe and Asia was dealt with in the Commission on Economic Problems. The Commission on Youth Agencies heard reports by leaders from England, Indonesia, Sweden and the U.S. Ways to overcome discrimination and prejudice of race, creed and caste were discussed by the Commission on Cooperation Among Men of Goodwill.

Music was provided by the Belgium National Radio Symphony and the Hawaiian Ambassadors, with Pacific dances and songs. Each afternoon films were shown on the brotherhood theme. Over 200 drawings by children from many nations were exhibited and 15 prize-winners were selected by artists from Europe and America.

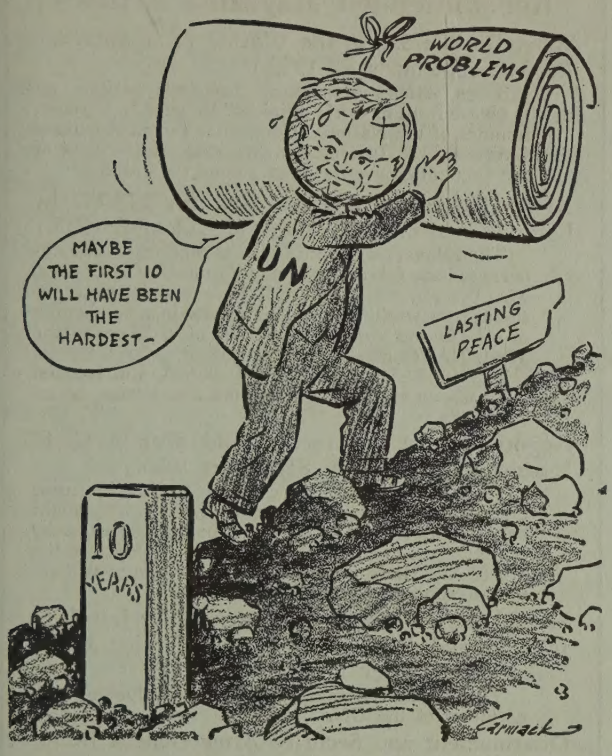
CO-PRESIDENTS ELECTED

The Executive Committee drew up a new constitution for World Brotherhood, elected a Board of Directors of some 150 members and chose as officers: Co-presidents, Arthur H. Compton, Paul-Henri Spaak, and Carlos P. Romulo, Philippine Delegate to the United Nations. Everett R. Clinchy was elected Administrative President.

European press, radio and TV gave extensive coverage to the Assembly, especially to the major speakers, and to a personal message from Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, read to the Assembly on the eve of the Geneva "summit" conversations.

The Brussels Assembly established World Brotherhood, first organized in Paris in 1950, as an earth-wide organization of significance and influence. During the next five years its major development will be in Asia, the Mediterranean region and Africa.

FOCUS> *on the Churches' Work for World Order*



—CARMACK in *The Christian Science Monitor*

Important Waymark

AFTER TEN YEARS . . .

During ten tension-packed years the United Nations has been a bulwark for international peace and justice. With honor and dignity it has served the needs of mankind.

Perhaps the most significant point is that the UN has endured, despite the intensity of the international power struggle in which it has had to work. It is not only standing firm, but has strengthened its procedures and practices so that it can work more effectively. It is also significant to note that, in the face of numerous conflicts and vitriolic diatribes, no nation has withdrawn from the UN, and twenty-one countries have applied for membership.

The UN has stopped wars, and has diligently sought peaceful and just settlements when disputes have arisen between nations. In several instances, after a cease-fire was established by the Security Council, the UN has been and still is grappling with determination and wisdom with the long-range problems involved in adjudicating settlements of extremely complex problems. In Korea the resolute stand against aggression has contributed to the development of a larger measure of collective security.

The United Nations social, economic and humanitarian work has helped people in many lands to help themselves to become self-reliant, healthy and economically solvent; in short, to attain a sense of dignity and worth, and to become potential citizens of a genuinely free world founded on the principles in the Charter.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has become an international norm, a standard which has influenced the formulation or revision of national constitutions. The work of the Commission on Human Rights has helped to awaken a human rights conscience throughout the entire world, and discussions in the Assembly have often thrown the spotlight of publicity upon violations of and infringements on fundamental freedoms.

In a world where there are still 200 million colonial people and about 18 million people in trust territories, the endeavors of the Assembly and of the Trusteeship Council to influence colonial powers and administering authorities to fulfill, under the UN Charter, their "sacred trust" to dependent peoples has helped to establish conditions in which a more orderly world might grow. This "sacred trust" basically refers to the responsibility of colonial and administering powers to be faithful guardians for promoting the welfare of dependent people and for stimulating progress toward self-government.

The United Nations is meeting the challenge of atomic power through the efforts of the UN Disarmament Commission to develop more mutual security, and through the recent conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy which immensely stimulated international collaboration and the freer exchange of scientific information.

At its tenth anniversary we pay tribute to the United Nations for its highly significant contributions to world order. It is the best available instrument for building bridges of understanding among the world's people, thereby increasing the mutual confidence and trust out of which peace among the nations can grow. As the Member States use the United Nations more fully and for the purposes for which it was intended, they will responsibly meet their international obligations. Thereby they can do their share, through the United Nations, to save our own and succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

* * *

And yet it may be that what we have is a world not on the verge of flying apart, but an uncreated one — still in shapeless fragments waiting to be put together properly. I imagine that when we want something better, we may have it: at perhaps no greater price than we have already paid for the worse.

— KATHERINE ANNE PORTER

ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria

The problems of Tunisia and Morocco have repeatedly been brought before previous sessions of the UN General Assembly, even though the French Delegation has refused to take part in the debates. This year the Tunisian question apparently will not appear on the Assembly agenda, for on June 3, 1955 a series of conventions were signed by the French and Tunisian governments granting home rule to the protectorate.

With Morocco the situation is vastly different, for violence on a considerable scale has broken out there between French settlers and Moroccans. Although Premier Faure has stated in the French National Assembly that gradually authority would need to be transferred to Moroccans, no formula at this writing has been carried into effect to satisfy both Moroccan nationalists and the conservative bloc in the French government which is resisting change pointed toward home rule for Morocco. Meanwhile street fighting and rioting continues. The French have a heavy investment in Morocco, and Casablanca is a major port. It should be noted that both France and the U.S. — all of NATO, in fact — have a strategic interest in the protectorate, the U.S. having spent $372 million there on air bases. Last July, 14 Asian-African states requested the UN Secretary-General to place the Moroccan question on the agenda of the current Assembly session, and the Steering Committee has voted that it should be included.

Similarly 13 Asian-African states have asked that the Algerian question be placed on the tenth Assembly agenda, explaining that it constituted a threat to peace and a source of international friction. Although this proposal has been rejected by the Assembly Steering Committee by a vote of 8-5, with two abstentions, the question may be raised again from the Assembly floor when the Committee report is read. Inasmuch as Algeria, unlike Tunisia and Morocco, is a part of metropolitan France, it is doubtful that this question will be placed on the agenda since it would appear to conflict directly with the "domestic jurisdiction" provision in the Charter. With respect to Algeria, however, as with Morocco, the French people will surely have to take more seriously the warning of Premier Faure before the French National Assembly, that "the days of colonialism are over, but the era of partnership has begun."

The Murphy Report on UNESCO

A Special Committee of the national organization of The American Legion intensively studied for 18 months the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Its chairman is Ray Murphy, a past National Commander. Recently the report, privately printed, was circulated to the press. Last May the Special Committee submitted its report to the National Executive Committee, which referred it to the American Legion National Commission on Foreign Relations with direction to that Commission to report on it at the 1955 National Convention (Miami, Florida, October 10-13).

In the foreword to its lengthy and carefully documented report, the Special Committee states that it "reached conclusions at variance with adverse critics of UNESCO. Usually such critics charge that UNESCO is (a) atheistic, (b) communistic and/or subversive, (c) favorable and tending toward world government." The Special Committee found:

"1. That UNESCO is not favorable toward world government; that the programs and functions of UNESCO are not such as to tend toward world government; that the United States National Commission for UNESCO, individually and as a group, are strongly opposed to world government;

"2. That UNESCO is not atheistic, and

"3. That UNESCO is in no sense or degree communistic."

In view of the fact that The American Legion has been one of UNESCO's chief and most persistent critics, it is expected that the Murphy report will run into a pitched battle at the Miami Convention in October.

Recommended Magazine Articles

What Do We Say to the World? *(The Saturday Review,* September 17, 1955.)

Seven articles discussing "America's position on the battlefront of world opinion." Edward L. Bernays, founder of the National Committee for an Adequate Overseas U.S. Information Program, and several of the Committee members are among the authors.

After Geneva: A Greater Task for NATO by Lester B. Pearson. *(Foreign Affairs,* October 1955.)

The relaxation of international tensions which appears to have followed the summit meeting at Geneva, Mr. Pearson maintains, will have a deleterious influence on world affairs if it results in a weakening of NATO and a general lessening of vigilance in the West. NATO must be kept strong, he states, but its non-military side should be developed, with special emphasis on expanding economies and healthy social structures.

Negotiating an End to the Cold War by G. F. Hudson. *(Commentary,* September 1955.)

Is the "armistice in the cold war" a genuine truce during which agreed settlements of differences might be negotiated or is it phony, a period contrived by the Russians to effect a relaxation of vigilance in the West? Mr. Hudson thinks it is phony, hence will result in appeasement.

Should the UN Charter Be Revised? by Joseph E. Johnson and William R. Frye. *(Foreign Policy Bulletin,* September 15, 1955.)

Two succinct articles, each giving a valuable interpretation of the UN.

Disarmament and Security After Geneva by Sir John Slessor. *(The Reporter,* September 8, 1955.)

A realistic discussion about the conditions on which disarmament would be acceptable, with some comments on air power.

PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

Volunteers in World Affairs

"What can I do for international understanding?" is a question many thoughtful citizens ask. Many people with a few free hours each day, week or month have found that volunteer service is a rewarding answer. A new pamphlet, *What Makes a Volunteer?*, stresses both the need for volunteers and the rewards of being a volunteer. It also describes some of the jobs available. Order from Public Affairs Pamphlets, 22 E. 38th Street, New York, N. Y. 25 cents. 28 pp.

Volunteers and United Nations Week

During United Nations Week observances October 16-24, many volunteers will be staffing information booths, setting up international bazaars, entertaining foreign visitors, or perhaps planning a UN birthday party, parade or ball. How can existing community groups use these volunteers in their year round programs? Perhaps one function of the United Nations Week Committee might be to make a survey of the community's active and potential volunteers, their interests, skills and available free time. These volunteers might be invited to a UN Week Committee follow-up meeting. This meeting might not only discuss ways to improve the 1956 observance, but ways to stimulate year round interest in the United Nations and activity in world affairs projects. (For suggestions on the observance of UN week, request a free copy of the *United Nations Week* leaflet from The Church Peace Union, 170 E. 64th St., New York 21, N. Y.)

Community World Affairs Activities

In many U.S. communities, church groups discuss such subjects as the United Nations or German reunification. There may be relief committees seeking money, clothes or jobs for refugees and hopeful immigrants overseas, or books and magazines for foreign schools and libraries. Survey your community's resources. Find out what is being done to further international understanding, what could be done, where volunteers are needed. Many churches and synagogues are and should be sources of information on community action. A national organization like the League of Women Voters, 1026 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., or the Foreign Policy Association, 345 E. 46th Street, New York, N. Y., may have a nearby chapter with such information. Two fine examples of community action in world affairs are the Minnesota World Affairs Center and the Detroit International Institute.

Minnesota Center Coordinates Programs

Since 1949 the Minnesota World Affairs Center has been coordinating the work of its 17 member organizations. The Center aims "to promote and foster study and information with respect to world affairs in the belief better community education in world affairs is essential for sound democratic citizenship."

In 1949 several local organizations found that common clerical and administrative services freed their leaders and volunteers for wider community work and eliminated overlapping projects. Greater cooperation between organizations meant that more effective programs reached a wider public.

The Center acts as the region's clearing house in helping plan a well-rounded program of education in world affairs. It helps find speakers, films and visual aids, and operates a pamphlets shop. A special feature is a pen pal service for children. The Center has also sponsored several series of seminars. Particularly effective is its International Center for Students and Visitors. Volunteers working through the Center arrange special tours, staff an emergency committee for foreigners in difficulty, and plan international social events. For information, write the Minnesota World Affairs Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 14, Minn.

Detroit Institute Aids Immigrants

In Detroit, the International Institute was founded through a public drive to "promote the welfare, education and social integration of the immigrant peoples of Metropolitan Detroit and to help them feel happy and at home in this, their adopted country . . ."

The Institute offers free classes in American history and government to help immigrants pass their educational test for citizenship, and English and Spanish language classes. New arrivals learn about immigration and naturalization laws, and about local health, education and welfare resources. The center organizes clubs, concerts, dances, discussion groups, etc. A favorite feature is the nationality food luncheon for which Detroit housewives prepare their national specialties. Volunteers with special interests — languages, dancing, woodcraft, cooking, etc. — are particularly useful. For information, write the International Institute, 111 E. Kirby Avenue, Detroit 2, Mich.

World Politics Discussion Groups Organized

The American Foundation for Political Education is offering again this year its series of 10 discussions on world politics. Over 100 American cities will have groups discussing such topics as the state and the individual, democracy, communism, power politics, and international organization. Two trained leaders serve groups of 20 to 30 people. To avoid bias and to stimulate maximum thought and discussion, readings include expert opposing points of view. The $10 registration fee ($15 for married couples) includes a three-volume edition of reading materials. For information write the American Foundation for Political Education, 19 S. LaSalle Street, Chicago, Ill.

SUGGESTED READING

A History of Latin America by Hubert Herring. Knopf. 796 pp. $8.75.

An absorbing book that combines brilliant scholarship with a delightful, highly readable style. Comprehensive in its scope and penetrating in its analysis of our southern neighbors and their relations with the U.S.

The Last Essays of Georges Bernanos. Regnery. 263 pp. $4.50.

Georges Bernanos had deep insight into our age, and lucidly interpreted it with realism and, at times, with sparkling wit. These essays are stirring and profound.

Trade Barriers and the National Interest by Charles P. Taft. Southern Methodist University. 101 pp. $1.50.

A vigorous plea for a freer world trade as a means to fulfill the U.S. national interest, by the President of the Committee for a National Trade Policy.

The United Nations and How it Works by David Cushman Coyle. New American Library. 208 pp. 35 cents.

A useful handbook, realistic in approach and, though concise, inclusive in its overall survey of UN work and organization.

When the Mountains Move by Daniel Behrman. UNESCO. 68 pp. 75 cents.

A fascinating account of UNESCO technical assistance in Latin America.

Teaching World Understanding ed. by Ralph C. Preston. Prentice-Hall. 207 pp. $3.95.

An invaluable reference book for teachers in public schools, dealing with the study of world understanding in elementary and secondary schools, in service activities, in assemblies, etc. Many helpful suggestions for the Sunday School teacher.

Power and Policy by Thomas K. Finletter. Harcourt, Brace. 408 pp. $5.00.

A former Secretary of the Air Force analyzes and appraises America's armed strength and her military policies. Part IV deals with questions of disarmament and "enforced peace."

A History of United States Foreign Policy by Julius W. Pratt. Prentice-Hall. 808 pp. $9.25.

In addition to being a comprehensive study of U.S. diplomatic history, this book describes the processes and machinery of diplomacy, explains the place of military force as an indispensable instrument of foreign policy and carefully interprets the meaning of technical terms.

The Liberal Tradition in America by Louis Hartz. Harcourt Brace. 329 pp. $4.75.

A Harvard professor of government discusses, cogently and at times brilliantly, the founding fathers and their fundamental spiritual unity in spite of outward schisms, the feudal dream of the South, the New Deal, and America as a world power.

Tunisia Today: Crisis in North Africa by Leon Laitman. Citadel. 216 pp. $4.00.

A valuable discussion of social, economic and political conditions in one of the world's tension areas.

Friends and Neighbors by R. G. Casey. Michigan State. 181 pp. $3.00.

The Australian Minister of External Affairs explains with candor the outlook of his country toward the U.S. and the world, dealing perceptively with a number of matters of international concern.

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World Alliance News Letter

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